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Assad denies ordering chemical attack: CBS

WASHINGTON, September 8, 2013 (AFP) - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has denied in an interview with CBS television that he was behind a chemical attack last month and called on lawmakers to reject planned US military strikes, the US network said Sunday. "He denied that he had anything to do with the attack," CBS veteran correspondent Charlie Rose said, speaking after earlier interviewing Assad in Syria.

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Italian journalist held in Syria released

ROME (AFP) - Italian journalist Domenico Quirico and Belgian national Pierre Piccinin, both kidnapped in Syria in early April, have been released and are on a plane flying to Italy, the Italian government said Sunday

Electric Festival has a spectacular debut



Aruba first Electric Festival elicited an incredible response and attendance from EDM fanatics from Europe, Latin and North America, and can be counted as one of the most successful musical events the island has ever hosted. (see story on pg 3)

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will certainly feel at least the latter after a visit to Aruba's only authentic Jamaican restaurant, the newly opened *Jamaica Mi Irie* in San Nicolas.

The kitchen is the beloved effort of well known island chef, Jeffrey Roy Elliott, the master in the kitchen of Elliott's Italian restaurant adjacent to Costa Linda. Jeffrey has gone back to his Jamaican roots for this enthu-



Jeffrey Elliott and wife Daisy

siastic effort with his wife Daisy, who loves being the happy hostess.

The regular menu features the traditional cuisine such as Jerk Chicken, Fried Chicken, Beef oxtail, Stewed Pork, Jerk Pork, Fried Fish plus a house specialty, Curried Goat. These are regular items, but Jeffrey prefers to pepper his menu with various "Specials of the Day" made from what is fresh and seasonal.

This very cute, cozy place is open for **lunch** and **dinner** daily, except Sundays and Mondays, from 11:00 AM until 10:00 PM. It is located directly across from the BSL Laundry on Captain Rodgerstraat, which runs along the refinery wall parallel to the San Nicolas main street.

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Caribbean Linked II exposition opens at Ateliers '89



Participating young artists of Caribbean Linked II with Elvis Lopez

Founded last year, the Caribbean Linked art program, encouraging dialog and the exchange of ideas among artists and curators of the region, revealed the results of their second session in the galleries of the Ateliers '89 Foundation on Thursday evening, September 5. This is

the second year the foundation has hosted this cultural program. The first installment welcomed several important curators from the Caribbean and witness the launch of ARC (Art, Recognition, Culture) Magazine; this year the center hosted what curator and founder of

the "realization of a dream," emphasizing the importance of establishing this creative cultural network among the Caribbean nations. Particularly, she felt this year's program truly established its purpose, encouraging young artists of the region.

The organizers, including Nicole Smythe-Johnson, Senior Curator of the National Gallery of Jamaica, and Shantrelle Lewis with the Andy Warhol Foundation of Philadelphia/Brooklyn expressed their gratitude to established Aruban artists Ryan Oduber, Ciro Abath, and Omayra Muyale for donating their time and mentoring the participating artists.

Those selected for the program were Shirley Rufin of Martinique, Veronica Dorsett from The Bahamas, Sofia Maldonado from Puerto Rico, Mark King of Barbados, Rodell Warner, Trinidad



Welcome piece by Robin de Vogel

and Tobago, Dhiradj Ramsamoedj, Suriname, Omar Kuwas, Curacao and Carmile German, Robin de Vogel and Kevin Schuit representing Aruba. Kevin Schuit could not be present for the opening event because he had been invited to participate in an important show in Holland.

On the opening night of word reached the organizers that Kevin had just won the Best Artist Young Bloods Award at this important European show and competition.

Continued on pg 4



Video by Jermille Geerman of Aruba

ARC, Holly Bynoe from St. Vincent, described as "a collection of the strongest emerging young contemporary artists of the region." The artists were selected by a jury consisting of Ms. Bynoe, Annalee Davis of Barbados, a founder of the program along with Ateliers '89 Founder and Director Elvis Lopez.

The two-week residency program was funded by the Mondriaan Foundation, collaborating with ARC and the Fresh Milk Art Platform, to host this exchange of creativity. During the opening of the exposition, Ms. Bynoe described this highly successful and groundbreaking event as

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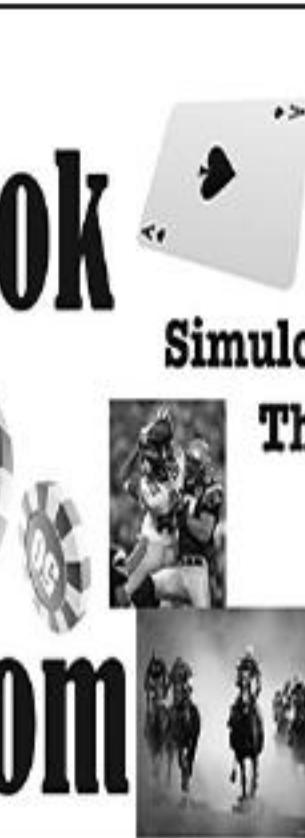


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Electric Festival has a spectacular debut

Continued from pg 2



The collaboration between popular European DJ Chuckie, creator of the "Dirty Dutch" mix of House and Trance music, resulted in a remarkable event this past weekend, which brought planeloads to the island and thousands to the special arena

at Nikky Beach.

Noted international DJ's included Slash and Erick Morillo, Baggi Begovic, along with Connor Cruise, Mitchell Niemeyer, Nero, Nicole Moudaber, Boris and Mastiksoul, more than 20 DJ's including several

Aruban and regional favorites, drew a huge audi-

ence. Unquestionably, the line up of the Aruba Electric Festival elicited an incredible response and attendance from EDM fanatics from Europe, Latin and North America, and can be counted as one of the most successful musical events the island has ever hosted.

The weekend was punctuated by celebrity brunches and dinners for which the tickets could be purchased, along with beach and after parties. It was, however, the extravagant concert setup and venue, boasting an impressive lightshow and the deft

patter of MC Roga, which fueled the excitement as headliner sultans of spin took to the turntables and the audience gyrated to the beat until the wee hours of the morning. Sultry weather did not deter or diminish the electric event, as this debut addition to Aruba's annual schedule brought a new demographic to discover the island. Judging by this spectacular debut, the Electric Festival is a welcome addition to Aruba's September lineup.

By Rosalie Klein





Caribbean Linked II exposition opens...

Continued from pg 2



Having fun with the piece
of Kevin Schuit



Mark King of Barbados



video and photography of
Dhiradj Ramsamoedj from
Suriname

For the opening event, members of the Gang di Arte from Aruba's Department of Culture, under the direction of Jhon Freddy Montoya, joined into to provide a kinetic, interactive experience with the works of the partici-

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Win a new Nissan Versa with Glitz Casino



Aruba's newest casino, the Glitz, within the La Cabana Beach Resort, has been opened less than a year, but is already instigating some spectacular campaigns for registered members of the Glitz Glamour Club. Joining their players' club offers patrons the opportunity to win a 2013 Nissan Versa at the end of September. Casino executives report this is only the first of many attractive monthly campaigns that will provide great surprises and opportunities to win big with Glitz.

The new car campaign began just last week, and the raffle tumbler is pretty empty at present. While using the member's card to play at slots or gaming tables, players can accumulate points towards a raffle ticket. A ticket will be awarded each time a player has reached fifty points on their account.

The raffle drawing will take place at 1:00 AM on

Sunday, September 29, and the lucky ticket holder must be present at the casino during the drawing to win the new car. Points used for raffle tickets will be deducted from the player's bonus account.

Members of the Glitz Glamour Club can attest to what a fun place the cozy

casino offers to while away the evening hours. They claim the friendly staff always makes them feel welcome, and the numerous special events, such as the possibly winning a new car, puts some definitive zing into playing the tables and slots.

By Rosalie Klein



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Marriot unveils a refreshed ballroom along with their Christmas menus



Aruba favorites, Keshi Yena and Ayaca



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sort boast several venues where they would welcome much smaller groups and provide the same delicious options.

By Rosalie Klein



Stir Fry Station

It is that time of year when company executives are planning the end of the year par-



Contemporary motif and cozy conversation corners

the year, Aruba Marriott & Stellaris Casino executives also welcomed invitees to view their newly renovated and refreshed ballroom facility at the same time.



Marriott Managers Matt Knights and Tom Calame with Ronella and Sanju of ATA and Jim Hepple of AHATA

ties for employees, a beloved tradition on Aruba. The island's various catering venues are busy introducing their holiday fare and motifs for

It was great way for weary HR Management to end the week last Friday, September 6, as they sample selections from the Sushi, Stir-Fry and Carving station, along with a varied Seafood and Salad Bar, and local holiday favorites, Keshi Yena and Christmas Ayacas. The Marriott culinary staff outdid themselves with a very tempting presentation that did not disappoint. Generally the emphasis was on freshly prepared dishes, which allowed diners distinct input in the ingredients, with a definitive emphasis on leaner, healthy eating. The contemporary staging of cozy conversation corners was contrasted by Christmas decorations in traditional styling, and the entire preview boasted an elegant and festive flair. The ballroom can accommodate larger groups of 100 to nearly 800, but banquet managers reminded interested parties that the re-

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Assad denies ordering chemical attack CBS

Continued from pg 1

"He denied that he knew there was a chemical attack, notwithstanding what has been said and notwithstanding the videotape. He said there's not enough evidence to make a conclusive judgment.

"The most important thing, as he says, is that 'there's no evidence that I used chemical weapons against my own people,'" Rose said.

Assad's rare interview with an American network is to be aired on CBS on Monday.

The United States has led the charge that Assad ordered a chemical attack against the residents of a Damascus suburb on August 21, which Washington says killed some 1,400 people including about 400 children.

Graphic videos released on Saturday showed dozens of people, including children, writhing on the ground with convulsions, some apparently foaming at the mouth and vomiting as rescuers sought to help them.

But Assad challenged the US administration of Presi-

dent Barack Obama to provide the evidence as it seeks to build domestic and international support for military strikes against the Syrian regime for breaking international conventions with its alleged use of chemical weapons.

The long-time Syrian leader also "had a message to the American people that it had not been a good experience for them to get involved in the Middle East in wars and conflicts," Rose said.

"The results had not been good and they should not get involved and that they should communicate to their Congress and to their leadership in Washington not to authorize a strike."

Congress is due to begin full debate this week on whether to approve Obama's plans for limited military strikes on Syria aimed at degrading its chemical weapons ability when it returns from its summer break on Monday.

But there is a deep skepticism among a war-weary American public over a new American military engagement in the Middle East.

Maduro claims US plot seeks to bring down Venezuela

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has claimed the White House is plotting the "collapse" of his government next month by sabotaging food, electricity and fuel supplies.

"I have data about a meeting at the White House, the full names of those who attended. I know what plans they made for the total collapse" of the country, Maduro said Saturday during a ceremony in northern Aragua state.

"They think that Venezuela will collapse in October, so long as they plan for it by sabotaging the people's food, electricity, fuel and refineries."

In recent months, the Venezuelan government has made several allegations about conspiracies against it and plots to kill Maduro, who even stated that Washington wanted to kill him at the same time that it carried out a possible attack on Syria. Maduro's predecessor, the late Hugo Chavez, also made claims about several plots to kill him.

On Tuesday, Maduro claimed the Venezuelan opposition had sabotaged the electrical power grid after a massive blackout left 70 percent of the country without power for at least four hours.

"The empire will fall before Venezuela, which won't collapse, by sabotage or anything," Maduro told supporters, using a euphemism for the United States.



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Israel, Palestinians 'remain steadfast' on peace talks: Kerry

LONDON (AFP) - US Secretary of State John Kerry met Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in London on Sunday, having earlier insisted that Israelis and Palestinians were determined to pursue direct peace talks.

Kerry and Abbas, who have met regularly over the last six months, kicked off their latest talks at 7:30 pm (2030 GMT).

The pair laughed and joked in the Queen Elizabeth room of London's Ritz Carlton hotel before heading off for their closed-door meeting. No details were due to be released to the press.

The United States's top diplomat arrived in London late afternoon following a stop-off in Paris, which was

dominated by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the proposed US-Franco military response.

But Kerry also tackled the Israeli-Palestinian peace process with his Egyptian, Qatari and Saudi counterparts along with representatives from the Arab League.

"Despite tough decisions that have to be made and despite pressure that exists on both sides... both the Palestinians and Israelis have remained steadfast in their commitment to continuing the talks," Kerry said in Paris after a meeting with Arab League officials.

Kerry also said he planned to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "shortly" to discuss peace efforts.

In regards to the talks with Arab League officials, Kerry said: "We all of us agreed that a final status agreement is important in enhancing regional security and stability throughout the Middle East."

Direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians resumed on July 29, after Kerry shuttled between Jerusalem, the West Bank and Amman for several months seeking to end a three-year stalemate in the negotiations.

The two sides have since met three times in August and in early September in Jerusalem.

In line with Kerry's desire to keep the details of the negotiations secret in order to give the process a chance to work, little has leaked about the talks.

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11 killed, 15 wounded at Guatemala liquor store

GUATEMALA CITY (AFP) - At least 11 people were killed and another 15 injured in an armed standoff at a liquor store in Guatemala, rescue officials said.

Rescue workers who responded to the scene found victims dead in "hiding places," in the store's bathrooms, and in the alleys by the store, Sergio Vasquez, spokesman for the volunteer firefighters told local media.

They arrived at the liquor store in the village of San Jose Nacahuil, about 25 kilometers (16 miles) north of the capital,

after getting an emergency call "and a person with a calm voice indicated there were several injured," Vasquez said.

An investigation is underway to determine the cause of, and who was behind, the carnage.

Guatemala has seen a wave of violence that has left more than 6,000 people dead a year -- one of the highest murder rates in Latin America.

Officials estimate as many as half the violent deaths are associated with drug trafficking and the battle between gangs or "maras."

107-year-old man killed in SWAT shootout in Arkansas

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A 107-year-old Arkansas man was killed during a shootout with US police and SWAT team members, local authorities said.

Police were responding to a disturbance at a house in Pine Bluff city Saturday afternoon and determined that suspect Monroe Isadore had pointed a gun at two people, according to a statement given to local media.

The two victims were led out of the house. As the officers approached the bedroom where Isadore had taken cover, he shot through the door.

Isadore failed to injure any of the officers with his gunfire. Supervisors began negotiating

with Isadore and a Special Weapons and Tactics team was called out.

Using a camera inserted into the room, the SWAT team was able to confirm that Isadore was armed with a handgun. The officers then slipped gas into the room before Isadore responded with gunfire.

"Shortly afterwards, a SWAT entry team inside the residence breached the door to the bedroom and threw a distraction device into the bedroom," the Pine Bluff Police Department statement read. "Isadore then began to fire on the entry team and the entry team engaged Isadore, killing him."

Law enforcement officials are investigating the incident.

International News

Israel okays 5,000 West Bank Palestinian work permits

JERUSALEM (AFP) - The Israeli government on Sunday approved the allocation of 5,000 work permits for Palestinians from the West Bank, enabling them to work in the Jewish state, an official told AFP.

"The initial resolution stated that it was within the framework of the peace negotiations with the Palestinians and efforts to improve the Palestinian economy," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"But several ministers opposed this phrasing, saying there was no reason to improve the Palestinian economy when the Palestinians don't miss an opportunity to back boycotts against Israel's economy," the official said.

The Israeli decision comes amid recently renewed direct peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians after a three-year stalemate.

Last month, Israel released 26 Palestinian prisoners in the first batch of some 104 long-term detainees who are to be freed in stages contingent on progress in the negotiations as a confidence-building gesture.

Since the start in 2000 of the second Palestinian uprising, or intifada, Israel has limited the number of permits it grants Palestinians to enter for work, medical treatment or other needs.

In addition to the newly approved 5,000 permits, nearly 70,000 Palestinians have permanent work permits for Israel, according to a defence official.

Meanwhile US Secretary of State John Kerry said Sunday that Israel and the Palestinians are determined to push forward with peace talks.

The United States's top diplomat arrived in London late afternoon following a stop-off in Paris, which was dominated by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the proposed US-Franco military response.

But Kerry also tackled the Israeli-Palestinian peace process with his Egyptian, Qatari and Saudi counterparts along with representatives from the Arab League.



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Pope hits out at 'war to sell arms' in Syria prayers

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - Pope Francis on Sunday lashed out at what he termed "commercial war to sell arms" as he led mass prayers in Saint Peter's Square for Syria.

In his traditional weekly prayers in front of an unusually large crowd of faithful in the Vatican, the leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics called for his followers to "say no to violence in all its forms, to the proliferation of weapons and their illegal trade."

In a departure from his prepared text, the pope asked what were the reasons for wars such as the one raging in Syria and mentioned "commercial war to sell arms."



"I invite you to continue to pray for the violence and devastation to stop! Let us work with a renewed commitment for a just solution to the internecine conflict," Francis told the crowd.

On Saturday, Francis led Catholics worldwide in a day of fasting and prayer for peace in Syria joined by Jews, Muslims and Orthodox Christians.



MAIDAN SHAR (AFP) - US soldiers stand over the dead body of insurgent after a suicide attack in Maidan Shar, the capital city of Wardak province south of Kabul on Sunday. At least four Afghan intelligence agents were killed and dozens of civilians were wounded when a group of Taliban militants attacked an intelligence bureau in central Afghanistan, officials said.



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Health & Living

Dutch vegetarian butcher takes on the 'Frankenburger'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Never mind last month's revolutionary test-tube beef burger grown from meat stem cells. The Dutch are way ahead with a "vegetarian butcher" who transforms plants into "meat".

Dubbed the "Frankenburger", the lab-grown beef -- developed at a cost of more than 250,000 euros (\$330,000) -- was unveiled by scientists in London and served to volunteers in what was billed as the start of a food revolution.

But "we are much more advanced, so-much-so that we have built an unassailable lead over meat produced from stem cells," said Jaap Korteweg, founder of the "Vegetarian Butcher".

While the "cultured beef" in London was made using strands of meat grown from muscle cells taken from a living cow, the Dutch butcher needs only plant matter to make his "meat".

Korteweg's shop on a main street in downtown The Hague is packed with a range of products from veggie "hamburger" patties to "meatballs" and even "tuna" salad.

One of the secret ingredients is a soy paste, which when put through a special pressurisation machine, imitates meat fibres, a technology invented by the University of Wageningen in the central Netherlands.

Ingredients vary. For chicken, he uses more soy, while beef is made from carrots, peas and potatoes. The "meat" taste comes by adding herbs and spices and all the rest.

The vegetarian chicken "tastes just like real chicken",



Paul Bom, the chef of The Vegetarian Butcher

and the tuna salad is also close to the real thing, according to an AFP journalist and several customers, who conceded some products weren't quite realistic but said they tasted good.

The demand for an environmentally friendly and vegetarian alternative to meat is growing, with meat production notoriously inefficient, requiring huge swathes of land to grow the crops to feed the animals.

"Our hamburger's environmental footprint is seven times

less than that of a real hamburger," claimed Korteweg.

Three years after opening, the Vegetarian Butcher sells its products in 500 stores around the Netherlands, mainly supermarkets and specialist food stores.

Korteweg says that sales have doubled each year since, and hopes to open his own factory next year to boost his share of the market and drop prices to below that of the real thing.

Though now slightly more expensive than real meat, his

products cost about the same as organic meat.

The Vegetarian Butcher has struck a chord with Dutch animal welfare organisations and its pro-vegetarian Party for the Animals (PvdD), which has two seats in Parliament. One of those seats is held by Korteweg's wife and PvdD leader Marianne Thieme.

But just as French beef farmers reacted with outrage at developers of the stem-cell burger, the Dutch meat sector has issues with the Vegetarian Butcher.

"What we do have a problem with is that they use terminology specific to meat, while everybody knows that there's no meat in there," he said. "It shouldn't be called chicken, or a hamburger but should rather have another name, because it tricks consumers."

Goebbel did not, however, feel that veggie meat posed a threat to the chicken or beef industry.

In his quest to make veggie meat taste like the real thing, Korteweg has enlisted the help of chefs, as well as scientists.

A problem is people who say "they simply could not imagine consuming an alternative" to meat, said Bom, so "the only solution is to get them to taste it."

Dutch environmental group Natuur & Milieu is doing just that, promoting veggie food with free tastings in supermarkets.

If everyone in this country of 17 million ate one less meat-containing meal a week, he asserted, it would be equivalent to cutting the carbon emissions of a million cars.

MERS virus: Combination drugs seen as treatment option

PARIS (AFP) - US doctors on Sunday said a combination of two anti-viral drugs was an option for treating MERS respiratory disease after the therapy was found to work on lab monkeys.

Two drugs -- interferon-alpha 2b and ribavirin -- that are commonly used together against hepatitis C inhibited the spread of the MERS coronavirus in the rhesus macaques species, they said.

The combination also braked inflammation and reduced the risk of pneumonia in treated animals, they said.

A cousin to the SARS virus that erupted in China a decade ago, causing a global health scare, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) causes flu-like symptoms, with fever and respiratory difficulties, but can also lead to organ failure.

According to a toll placed on the World Health Organisation (WHO) website on August 30, the virus has killed 50 out of 108 known cases of infection.

Last week, Qatar and Saudi Arabia said three more fatalities had occurred. It was not immediately clear whether these were included in the 108 cases recorded by the UN's health agency.

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Sci-Tech

Chinese man faces jail for smuggling US arms equipment

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A 43-year-old Chinese national has pleaded guilty to breaching US arms export rules by trying to smuggle radiation-hardened satellite equipment to China, American prosecutors said.

Philip Chaohui He admitted violating the Arms Export Control Act by trying to smuggle equipment worth nearly \$550,000 on to a Chinese-flagged ship registered to the subsidiary of a state-owned company in 2011.

He -- who used the alias Philip Hope -- appeared in court earlier this week, and is being held in custody pending a sentencing hearing in December, said US Attorney for the District of Colorado John Walsh.

Under a plea agreement he faces up to five years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, said a joint statement by Walsh and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) unit.

He was arrested after trying to smuggle 200 integrated circuits in several plastic infant formula containers, placed in sealed boxes labeled as "milk powder" in Chinese.

He had bought 312 of the radiation-hardened circuits from a Colorado manufacturer, identifying himself as representing California-based company Sierra Electronic Instruments (SEI), of which he was the only employee.

Investigators observed him meeting with two men in front of a ship docked in Long Beach, California, on December 11, 2011. The ship was registered to a subsidiary of Chinese state-owned company China Communications Construction.

The purpose of the seized items was not known. But radiation-hardened electronics help aerospace designers to increase performance and reduce risks in space and in other radiation-prone environments, according to the website of US aviation giant Honeywell.



NASA (AFP) - In this image released by NASA, the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE) observatory launches aboard the Minotaur V rocket from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. LADEE is a robotic mission that will orbit the moon where it will provide unprecedented information about the environment around the moon and give scientists a better understanding of other planetary bodies in our solar system and beyond.

Hundreds of thousands of fish killed by China pollution

BEIJING (AFP) - Hundreds of thousands of dead fish were left floating in a Chinese river after a chemical discharge, officials said the latest industrial accident to pollute the coun-

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try's battered environment.

About 100,000 kilograms of fish were cleared from 40 kilometres of the Fu river in Wuhan, the capital of the central province of Hubei, the official Xinhua news agency said, citing "local government investigations".

Xinhua said the probe found ammonia levels "far in excess of the national standard" at a drain outlet from Hubei Shuanghuan Science and Technology, a chemical manufacturer.

A local environmental official surnamed Xiao confirmed the Monday incident to AFP and said operations to clear the fish had been concluded in most of the affected areas.

The fish were mainly carp, chub and snakehead, he added.

Around 2,000 villagers nearby earn their living from fishing, according to Xinhua.

The incident was one of the most discussed topics on China's hugely popular version of Twitter, Sina Weibo.

"We have to protect our environment," said one poster.

"Why hasn't the person responsible for this resigned yet?" asked another.

The contamination came after more than 16,000 dead pigs were recovered from a river which runs through the commercial hub of Shanghai earlier this year.

The scandal highlighted China's troubles with food safety, adding the country's most popular meat to a growing list of items rocked by controversy.

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Thousands protest Romania gold mine plans

BUCHAREST (AFP) - More than 15,000 Romanians took to the streets for the eighth straight day Sunday to protest a Canadian company's plans to open Europe's largest gold mine in a picturesque Transylvanian village.

Canadian firm Gabriel Resources hopes to extract 300 tonnes of gold in Rosia Montana in the Carpathian mountains with mining techniques requiring the use of thousands of tonnes of cyanide.

In Bucharest, around 8,000 people marched or rode their bikes to the government headquarters chanting "United we can save Rosia Montana".

Many students as well as young couples with babies were among the protesters.

Carrying banners reading "I love nature, not cyanide" and "Corruption equals cyanide", they called for the resignation of Prime Minister Victor Ponta, whose government last month

adopted a bill clearing the way for the open-cast mine.

The draft law still has to be approved by parliament.

Around 6,000 protesters also rallied in Cluj, the major Transylvanian city, and around 900 in Brasov, police said.

Protests were also staged in several other towns.

Gabriel Resources, which owns 80 percent of the Rosia Montana Gold Corporation, acquired a mining licence in 1999 but has been waiting ever since for a crucial permit from the environment ministry.

The company promises 900 jobs during the 16-year extraction period and economic benefits.

Opponents say the mine will be an ecological time-bomb and threaten the area's Roman mining galleries.

The project will also lead to the destruction of four mountains and require hundreds of families to be relocated.

One gold strike ends, another looms in S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - A South African gold miners' strike has ended after workers at Harmony Gold accepted a final wage offer, the company said Sunday, as elsewhere workers voted to down tools.

Tens of thousands of National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) members went on strike

over pay on Tuesday night, but most had already returned to work after agreeing wage deals of between 7.5 and 8.0 percent.

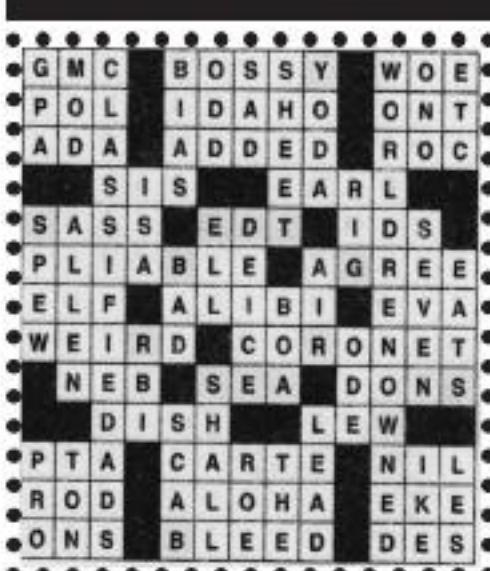
Workers at Harmony's mines in the central Free State and Northern Cape provinces had initially held out for a better deal, but the company said they had now accepted.

But members of rival labour group the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU) voted Sunday to reject an eight-percent wage offer.

Gold remains a key industry in Africa's largest economy, employing around 140,000 people and accounting for 10 percent of export earnings and three percent of Gross Domestic Product.

But falling gold prices, a declining grade of ore and increased costs such as electricity and wages, have drained revenues.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer



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FINANCE

Leftist leader urges Mexicans to reject oil reform

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Leftist leader Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador urged Mexicans Sunday to peacefully resist economic reforms pushed by President Enrique Pena Nieto as he led a rally in the capital.

Mexico City police said more than 40,000 people rallied in a park to reject plans by Pena Nieto to overhaul the tax system and open the country's state-controlled oil industry to foreign investors.

"We can prevent the privatization of the energy sector and the tax increases through peaceful citizen mobilization," said Lopez Obrador, who never recognized his defeat to Pena Nieto in the 2012 presidential election after claiming fraud.

"These energy and tax reforms were prepared abroad for the benefit of foreign companies, a commitment that Pena Nieto made with foreign companies in the United States and Britain," he said, calling for another rally on September 22.

Lopez Obrador made his plea as Pena Nieto prepared to present a revamp of the tax system to increase the government's revenue stream amid reports that he may propose a controversial sales tax for food and medicine.

The Mexican president, who took office in December, has struck a pact with rival leftist and conservative parties that has secured telecommunications and education reforms despite protests by teachers.

Last Monday, he defended his reforms and urged Mexicans to back the "grand transformation" of the country.

stressing that the overhaul was necessary to improve education, create jobs and improve a slowing economy.

Pena Nieto says the energy shifts aim to allow private firms to enter into profit-sharing agreements with state-run giant Pemex to modernize the company, but he denies plans to privatize an industry that was nationalized 75 years ago.

Speaking on a stage in front of a giant banner that read "No to the biggest robbery of all time," Lopez Obrador said the tax overhaul will dig into the pockets of ordinary Mexicans to make up for losing Pemex profits.

"Oil is the engine, the fuel of our society. It's an essential and profitable product that belongs to society," said Alberto

Castro Gonzalez, a 45-year-old teacher wearing a poster of a barrel of oil with the words "Mexico is not for sale."

"They want to sell it, but the government is our employee. We, the Mexican people, are the owners," he said.

Lopez Obrador had planned to hold the rally in front of the National Palace at the historic Zocalo square, but he was forced to move it to the park because thousands of teachers have been camping out there for the past three weeks.

With Pena Nieto having a deal with rival parties to pass the reforms in Congress, Lopez Obrador said: "The only thing that can stop these measures, which are contrary to the nation's interests, is citizens mobilizing."



DETROIT (AFP) - Ben Parenteau, a barista at Great Lakes Coffee Roasting Company, prepares a latte on in Detroit, Michigan. Great Lakes Coffee Roasting opened 14 months ago, and has since become a popular spot for a growing community of creative-types to meet, work on laptops and sip on a coffee or beer. Despite over 78,000 abandoned homes across 140 square miles, 16% unemployment and the city declaring bankruptcy in July, Detroit has attracted a booming creative class in the past five years

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Taj Mahal Restaurant, an authentic culinary excursion

-- When Bharat Shah, originally from India, but now a successful businessman in California, put on a spectacular wedding in Aruba for his daughter Lisa and her groom Kalpesh, they welcomed hundreds of friends and relatives from around the world, including the "old country."

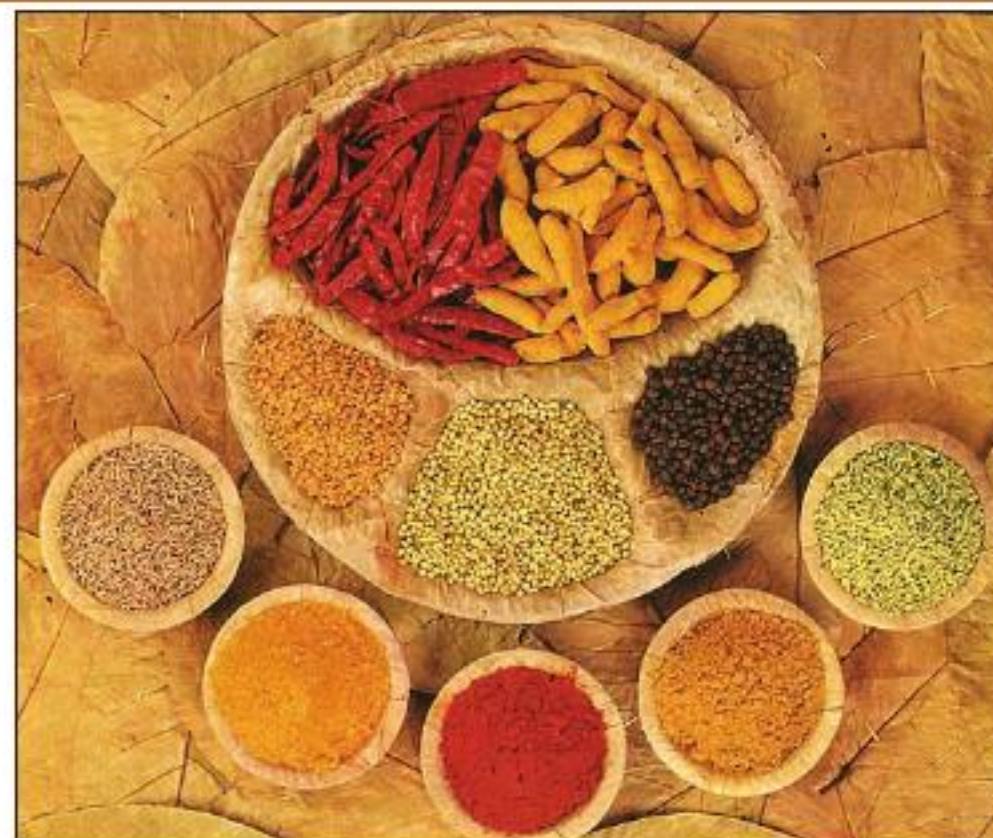
When all the wedding guests had finally arrived in Aruba, Bharat hosted an official welcome party along the shore in Palm Beach, and he chose to have it catered by Taj Mahal restaurant, he was that impressed by their cuisine.

If you like your Indian food authentic, or are looking for a new and unique dining experience, an evening at Taj Mahal will deliver a memorable meal. A seemingly endless menu offers scores of choices for fish, chicken, lamb and vegetarian dishes that are "the real deal;" discover that Indian food goes way beyond curry!

A taste-testing crew from THE MORNING NEWS chose a selection of their singular starters and two main courses with saffron rice,

served family style, which provided a fine example of the versatility of their chef.

Taj Mahal's Tai Choice is a great way to start the meal and be initiated into the joys of Indian cuisine, offering a diverse selection of traditional favorites. It contains hearty portions of Pakoras, crispy vegetarian fritters, Aloo Tikki, potato cutlets, Chicken Tikka, tender chicken breast pieces seasoned just right, and shaped and seasoned ground lamb, charmingly dubbed "Sheik Kebabs." All is served on a bed of sliced onions and brought to your table on a sizzling platter, and you will want to dish those sautéed onions on to one of their tasty Indian breads called Naan, leaving behind not a single crumb. Main dishes are accompanied by a choice of rice, mixed vegetables rich with garlic, or Naan, plain, buttered, onion or garlic, and you will want to order an extra basket or two of this tasty delight, on which you can spoon your main course, as well. Poori is crispy fried naan, and most definitely worth the extra two



dollars to sample with your meal.

Our group also added an appetizer of crunchy Samosas, the Indian form of a potato knish, served with either cilantro or sweet and sour sauce. A platter of their Jhinga, large, crispy-fried shrimp in a delicate batter is ample enough to serve as a main course, though featured on their appetizer menu.

As we mentioned, main

courses are served family style, in beautiful little pots that sit upon a candle to keep them warm. Our group sampled the "Mutton Saagwala," also known as "Lamb Shag" which is cooked in a thick sauce of yogurt and spinach, and the "Fish Hara Masala," moist, tender chunks of fish in a rich sauce featuring cilantro as the main flavoring. This is offered in mild, medium and very

spicy, we found the medium quite spicy enough for us; it left a tingle on the tongue.

The family style service allows everyone at the table to sample a bit of this and that, and we heartily recommend you do, to truly appreciate this authentic bit of India in Aruba. Open for lunch and dinner, Taj Mahal sports a cozy and intimate air-conditioned dining room and a small outdoor terrace for those that enjoy dining al fresco. They have an exotic dessert menu to match, but our group was too stuffed to partake; there was even enough left to box up and provide a lunch next day for the lucky first person to get to it!

Located behind the Royal Plaza Mall, Taj Mahal offers a dining experience that is truly out of the ordinary, they feature an excellent and tasty selection for vegetarians too. If you are a fan of Indian food, or have been toying with trying it, Taj Mahal is the place for a very affordable dining experience and the real deal! Call 5884494 for reservations.

New York Fashion Week:

NEW YORK CITY (AFP) - Victoria Beckham unveiled a boyish, more chilled out look for next spring in New York on Sunday, as her daughter Harper, perched on husband David's lap in the front row, stole the show.

The pop star-turned designer still loves delicate pleats -- which poked out in tennis white from underneath flirty asymmetrical miniskirts -- and belted body-hugging dresses.

But her new collection for spring-summer 2014 also offered up new silhouettes.

Loose-fitting tunics with



Models presents fashion by designer Victoria Beckham



Rita Ora walks the runway at DKNY Women's Spring 2014

flares low over the hips and a bit of gauzy transparency here and there joined the series of fun, kicky miniskirts.

As the seven-day fashion frenzy hit its halfway mark, more big names unveiled their spring looks on Sunday, including DKNY, Michelle Obama's favorite Tracy Reese, Diane von Furstenberg, Y-3 and Zac Posen.

Sitting on dad David Beckham's lap in the front row, Israeli-American self-daughter Harper was front taught designer Yigal Azrouel revealed his epony-



A model presents fashion by La-coste

mous collection, also dominated by black and white with a touch of grey, in Soho.

In a collection he described as "very precise" and "built on the women's bodies" in the last few weeks, he played with shadow and light to create an androgynous but seductive look.

Alexander Wang's masculine but flirty spring collection, unveiled Saturday, quite literally bore his mark: the fashion prince lasered his name as a motif on most of the pieces.

The 29-year-old, who was appointed creative

director of Spain's Balenciaga last year, used the tiny cut-out -- you might have to squint to see it -- on sleeves, bodices and entire dresses.

French luxury sportswear brand Lacoste, meanwhile, goes back to its sporty heritage for spring-summer 2014, and designer Felipe Oliveira Baptista used sharp lines and geometry to create a collection "reminiscent of modernist architecture: all lightness and transparency."

Celebrities, fashionistas and industry heavyweights have flocked to New York fashion week, which runs through Thursday when the spotlight swings over to London, Milan and Paris.

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

--Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded get-



away, we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of

Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site man-

agement's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas, 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



--In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacu-

lar dinner.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course

on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of



Fish on a Stone

the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast for \$9.99, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café located at Playa Linda Beach Resort in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance

of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting.

Open from Monday thru Saturday and on Sunday's only for Dinner. telf-5864046.

So whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found easily from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111

TOKYO - People celebrate as Tokyo wins the host city of the 2020 Olympics at the live-viewing event in Tokyo on Saturday. Tokyo won the right to host the Olympic Games for the second time, overcoming fears about radiation from the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant to land the 2020 edition of the world's biggest sporting event. Several channels broadcast live the 5:20 am Japan time announcement from Buenos Aires that the capital would host the Summer Games for a second time, with public broadcaster NHK having begun its programming nearly seven hours before the decision was revealed. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Tokyo will repay the world the debt they owe them for their help after the devastating tsunami in 2011 when the city hosts the 2020 Olympic Games



US OPEN - NEW YORK (AFP) - Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic, set to face each other for the sixth time in a Grand Slam final Today at the US Open, will also become the foes with the most Open Era head-to-head meetings. The culmination of the Flushing Meadows fortnight at Arthur Ashe Stadium will be the 37th career meeting between the rivals, moving past the 36 played by John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl to top the all-time modern rivalries. Nadal leads the rivalry 21-15 entering their latest showdown on the New York hardcourts, the third trophy matchup in four years between them at the US Open with the Spaniard winning in 2010 to complete a career Grand Slam and Serbia's Djokovic taking the rematch a year later for his first US Open crown. Djokovic owns a 3-2 edge over Nadal in Grand Slam finals meetings, losing at the 2010 US Open and last year's French Open while winning at Wimbledon and the US Open in 2011 and the 2012 Australian Open, the Melbourne title showdown the only one of those to go to five sets. Adding spice to the latest chapter in the rivalry is that Djokovic remains world number one and will keep that designation regardless of Monday's result while Nadal ranks second but has nine titles and 21 hardcourt wins in a row this year since returning from a seven-month layoff to rest his sore knees.

SPORTS

Olympics: Wrestling regains place on Olympic sports roster



BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Wrestling, as expected, regained its place on the Olympic Games sports roster after a vote by International Olympic Committee (IOC) members in Buenos Aires on Sunday.

Wrestling, which is one of the rare sports to have transcended the ancient and modern Olympics, won in the first

round of voting with 49 of the 95 votes cast.

The joint bid of baseball/softball was second with 24 votes and squash received 22.

The result sees wrestling assured of appearing at both the 2020 - which is to be hosted by Tokyo - and the 2024 Summer Olympics.

Football: USA, Mexico humbled in World Cup qualifiers



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Costa Rica slowed the USA's march toward the 2014 World Cup with a 3-1 win Friday, while Mexico were on even shakier ground after a 2-1 loss to Honduras.

Costa Rica moved to the top of the six-nation final qualifying group in North and Central America and the Caribbean (CONCACAF) with the victory in San Jose that ended the USA's 12-match winning streak.

The Ticos now head the group on 14 points, one more than Jurgen Klinsmann's United States.

Mexico, long the power-house of the region, are in worse straits heading into another crucial round of matches Tuesday.

Two goals in the space of three minutes in the second half lifted Honduras to victory in Mexico City and into third

place in the group that will see three teams advance directly to next year's finals. The fourth-placed team play off for a berth against New Zealand.

In San Jose, Costa Rica were out for revenge after a bitter 1-0 defeat to the United States in Denver in March, in a match played in heavy snow.

Honduras became the first team since Costa Rica in 2001 to win a World Cup qualifier at the Azteca, and their stunning triumph is sure to strengthen calls for the ouster of Mexico coach Jose Manuel "Chepo" de la Torre.

Mexico are just one point in front of fifth-placed Panama, who played to a goalless draw against Jamaica in Panama City. The hosts dominated but couldn't capitalize on their one-man advantage in the final half hour after Jamaican Rodolph Austin was sent off.

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Vettel Wins Italian Grand Prix, but Alonso Earns Cheers

MONZA - Three-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel in a Red Bull won the Italian Grand Prix at Monza on Sunday for his sixth win of the season.

Second place went to Fernando Alonso, with third taken by retiring Mark Webber in the second Red Bull and Brazilian Felipe Massa fourth in the second Ferrari.

On the podium, 37-year-old Webber took an uncharacteristic parting shot at Ferrari fans for jeering his Red Bull teammate Vettel.

Given his often tense relationship with Vettel over the years, this was a rare show of support as he criticized the



Ferrari "tifosi" who booed loudly when Vettel made his podium speech.

Vettel extended his lead in the drivers' championship to more than 50 points when he drove to a polished victory on Sunday.

The 26-year-old German and defending world cham-

pion survived a torrid start and gearbox problems as he dominated an intriguing 53-lap race, the last of the European part of the Formula One season.

Vettel came home 5.4 seconds clear of Alonso, as the Ferrari driver thrilled with a battling chase in pursuit.

Boxing: Burns keeps WBO belt after controversial draw



GLASGOW (AFP) - Scotland's Ricky Burns climbed off the canvas to controversially hold onto his WBO lightweight title after a draw with tough Mexican Raymundo Beltran in Glasgow on Saturday. Burns kept his crown after one judge awarded him the win by a score of 115-112, with another plumping for Beltran by 115-113 with the third seeing it as a draw 114-114. But even the partisan home crowd could scarcely seem to believe the result in a fight Beltran seemed to dominate throughout. Burns suffered a dislocated jaw in the second round, was almost decked in the fourth and was finally floored in eighth while Beltran never seemed in trouble. The 30-year-old Scot was making the fourth defence of the title he first won at the end of 2011, beating Australian Michael Katsidis on points.

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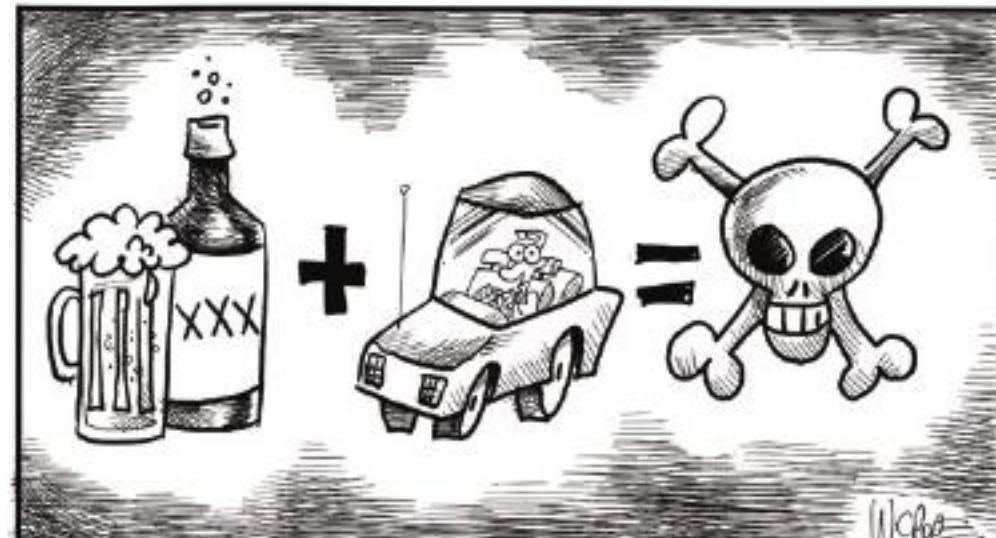
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SLOVENIA, Ljubljana (AFP) - Myles Hesson (R) of Great Britain vies for the ball with Tibor Pleiss of Germany, Germany have crashed out of EuroBasket 2013 after a 81-74 defeat to Great Britain. It was the third loss in a row for the Germans and the first time they've failed to progress out of the first round in 18 years.



PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Kevin Fandsen #28 of the Philadelphia Phillies leaps to get out of the way of a ball hit by Freddy Galvis as Andrelton Simmons #19 of the Atlanta Braves fields the ball during the sixth inning at Citizens Bank Park on Sunday. Phillies won 3-2.



Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!



-- Whether you're a first time visitor to the island, or you vacation with us every year we invite you to enjoy one of the most memorable vacation destinations of your life. We know, we're Divi Resorts and Aruba has been our home for over 40 years. Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

Many of our guests have found that one vacation to Aruba per year is simply not enough! Our solution: The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort. The Residences are luxury full ownership condominiums nestled within the lush greens of The Links at Divi Aruba golf course.

Make Aruba your second home! Condominiums from the \$300s. You can now purchase your own condominium and still enjoy the resort amenities of the Divi collection. For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort. For questions or to schedule your appointment to view a condominium, contact sales at (297) 583-9971 or email: sales@diviarubaresidences.com We hope you will soon call Aruba home!

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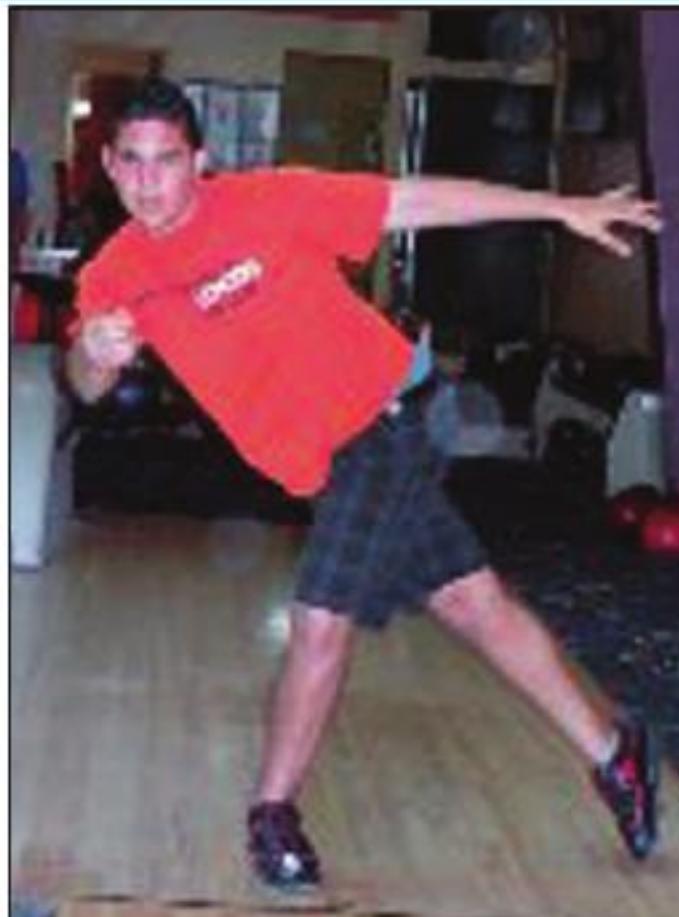
Aruban Renald Thiel maintains first place for 2014/2015 Aruba Bowling selection

-- Last Sunday the Arbas Tournament took place, which was the qualification games for the selection of the 2014/2015 Aruba Bowling. This time the selection will be for two instead of one year. This preparation will be for the 2014/2015 Pan-American

Games, as well as the ODESUR and various other international tournaments. 54 games were played in 9 days.

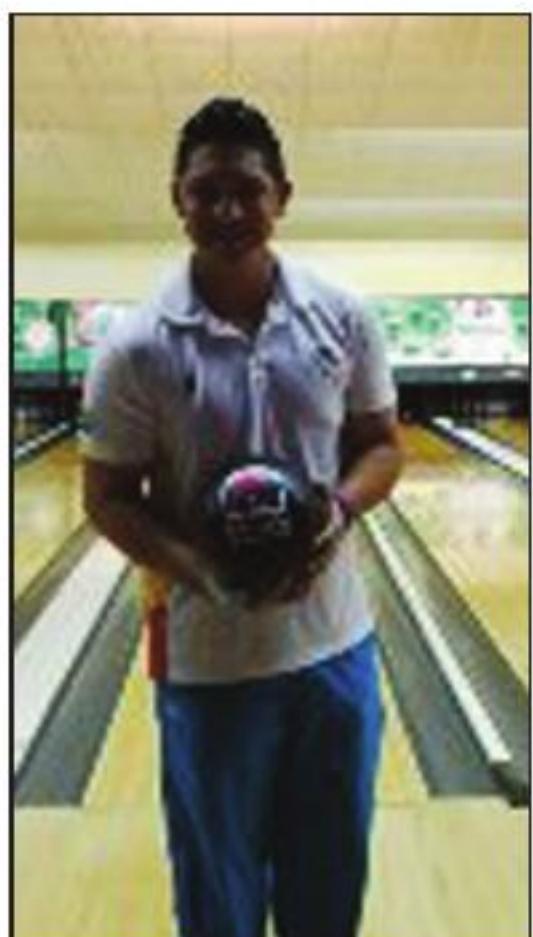
Here is where Renald Thiel maintained his position in first place on the first day up to the final event. Renald is now intensifying his training. He is committed to represent Aruba the very best he can.

Soon Renald will be travelling to Orlando to follow his routine training with professional coaches. After returning to Aruba he is later committed to Costa Rica and later to a tournament in Puerto Rico in December.



Taco Bell congratulates this young Aruban athlete for his exceptional talent, his great discipline and for the passion he has for the sport of bowling.

Congratulations Renald...from all of us here at The Morning News...we're proud of you!



Aruba's Xander Bogaerts hits first home run



NEW YORK - In a sold-out Yankee Stadium Bogaerts, the 20-year-old Red Sox shortstop with enough power to make NSTAR jealous, drilled his first career big-league home run, one of four long balls the Red Sox hit in a 13-9 victory over the Yankees. The rope to left-center traveled an estimated 443 feet, per ESPN, making it the second longest at Yankee Stadium this season behind a shot from Francisco Cervelli — who was busted for performance-enhancing drug usage. Bogaerts is the youngest player to homer for the Sox since Dwight Evans did it on Sept. 20, 1972, all of 19 days younger. "I mean, it was pretty far," said Mike Napoli, who hit Boston's longest homer of the season in April in Toronto and homered twice on Saturday. "I remember my first home run and how I felt. It's a special moment in his career, and we're all excited for him. He's got a lot of talent, and it was just something good to see."

PABIEN XANDER.